

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Question of Senator Mills. Senator Mills, you say that we had a choice to decide on January. I don't believe that is correct. The county treasurers automatically send these notices to us, the way I understand it. Why don't we give the county treasurers the choice of determining which month to do their own staggering? Then the problem would go away wouldn't it?

SENATOR MILLS: Well I'm sure that would have been a separate law that could have been introduced, Senator Maresh, giving statutory power to the treasurers to stagger the registration as they saw fit. However, there was opposition to this. Two years ago the staggered registration bill was passed and that is the way it is right now.

SENATOR MARESH: But you agree, we had no choice to determine which month we wanted to have our multiple listing, right?

SENATOR MILLS: As Senator Kelly has amended it, you would have now.

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, but presently the county treasurers send us a notice in January and they cause their own problem then, right?

SENATOR MILLS: Well they cause the problem because the law was that they had to send it. Prior to the passage of the staggered registration bill the county treasurers had to send you a notice that you had to register your vehicles in January or February, that was it.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Would you like to close debate, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd like all the members attention. The Kelly amendment is on page 471 of the Journal. If you look on page 471 the only change I'm proposing is to strike five and insert three. So the new language would read "any owner who has three or more vehicles, who elects to register all such vehicles on a calendar year basis, may select the particular month such twelve month period shall come in, and vehicles shall be registered in such month each year thereafter". It seems to me that the Kelly amendment resolves the problem that originally brought about the introduction of bills. By retaining the three it results in greater convenience for a larger number of taxpayers. It seems to me that three is a more reasonable figure. I would anticipate that if you go to five then all of us are going to get plenty of phone calls, particularly from those who qualified for three this year, suddenly their option was lost. I'd urge the body to adopt the amendment. I think together with the Kelly amendment it should correct the problem and make better legislation out of the statute as it now exists.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the bill be returned for the specific amendment. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Please vote. Have you voted? Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, on motion to return.